

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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MICON'S AEROSPACE INITIATIVE BILL PASSED BY HOUSE

INDIANAPOLIS – House members have passed legislation co-authored by State Rep. Joe Micon (D-West Lafayette) that will enhance the role that Purdue and other state universities and colleges play in the development of the aerospace and aeronautics industry in Indiana.

House Bill 1224, approved by a 95-0 margin, establishes a state aerospace and aeronautics initiative that will be administered by the new Indiana Economic Development Corporation. The measure, authored by State Rep. Eric Koch (R-Bedford), now advances to the Indiana Senate for consideration.

"When a person thinks of those communities that have played a role in the history of America's space program, Purdue and West Lafayette have a deserved place at the table alongside Huntsville, Ala., Houston and Seattle," Micon said.

"Twenty-two Purdue graduates have flown in space," he added. "A Purdue graduate was the first man on the moon, and a Purdue graduate was the last man on the moon. Our school of Aeronautics and Astronautics is a recognized leader in providing the intellectual and human capital needed by this critically important segment of our state's and nation's economy."

Micon said Indiana already is considered a major player in aerospace and aeronautics, thanks to such companies as Sikorsky Avionics and Butler Engineering in the Lafayette area, along with Cummins Engines in Columbus and Rolls Royce in Indianapolis.

"This legislation realizes the potential that can be found in aerospace and aeronautics, and provides the means by which we can locate other industries that can use the resources we have in place," he said.

Among the duties outlined in the initiative are promoting Indiana's aerospace and aeronautics industries, serving as a catalyst for the development of those industries, and acting as a liaison between those industries, other businesses and local, state and federal governments.

"It occurs to me that we need to do more to take advantage of the programs and skilled personnel we have at universities like Purdue and Indiana to attract more industries," Micon said. "Through the initiatives detailed in House Bill 1224, we can continue to cultivate a very important sector of Indiana's economy, and use those resources to create new job opportunities for Hoosiers."

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This news release can be accessed on the Internet at www.IN.gov/H26